

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a U.S. national stage application of PCT/EP03/06468 filed 18 June 2003, which PCT application claims priority of Austrian application number A 946/2002 filed 25 June 2002. The PCT International application was published in the German language.

Please insert the following section heading at page 1, line 4:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following section heading at page 3, line 23:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The materials used for the side plates have to have a high ability to withstand thermal loads, a high resistance to thermal shocks, a high resistance to abrasion on contact with the metal melt and the casting-roller surface, and resistance to chemical erosion and corrosion. Materials of this type consist of a mixture of substances comprising a plurality of components from refractory base materials, such as SiO₂, Al₂O₃, BN, Si₃N₄, ZrO₂, graphite, etc. The side plates are moved onto the casting rollers as a function of the wearing properties of the refractory material used. The side parts are in single-part form. If they contain different materials in different portions, in order to optimally adapt to the contact with the casting roller and the metal melt, these side plate parts are joined together in a common carrying frame to form a jointly movable component.

Please insert the following section heading at page 11, line 9:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following section heading at page 11, line 38:

DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT